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Back to Books, Petersburg!

September 2026

Welcome to Imagination Library's monthly e-newsletter. Below, you will find helpful information designed to keep you informed and connected to our community's ongoing work to promote literacy. We are thrilled to have you as part of our growing family of readers!

Visit our website by clicking [here](#).

In the News

Celebrating Summer Reading



We loved joining the Petersburg Public Library to celebrate the finale of its summer reading program! This summer, 600 children participated, spending the season reading, learning, and discovering new stories.

Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources Marvin B. Figueroa joined the celebration and shared inspiring remarks about how books helped him imagine a future full of possibilities and encouraged young readers to use reading to help write stories of their own.

Congratulations to all of Petersburg's young readers, and thank you to the library and community partners who make reading a priority all year long!

Community Partner Spotlight



Excellence in Children's
Early Language
and Literacy

Established in 2010, Excellence in Children's Early Language and Literacy (ExCell) works with educators, families, and community partners to strengthen early language and literacy experiences for young children.

ExCell offers resources families can enjoy at home, including [virtual family resources](#) and [Circle Time at Home](#), a children's program produced with VPM featuring local teachers, musicians, and artists. Designed for preschool and kindergarten-age children, the program brings engaging early learning activities right into the home.



Early Childhood Health Fair

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN BIRTH TO 5 LIVING
IN PETERSBURG AND SURROUNDING AREAS*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH - 10 AM TO 1 PM
WESTVIEW EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER

REGISTER TO ATTEND OR
BECOME A VENDOR USING THE
QR CODE OR LINK BELOW:

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/FUW11FU
HA2EBZJ28](https://forms.gle/FUW11FUHA2EBZJ28)



JOIN US FOR:

A PETTING ZOO
RAFFLE PRIZES
DEVELOPMENTAL
SCREENINGS
COMMUNITY RESOURCES
FREE VISION SCREENINGS

PRESENTED BY WESTVIEW EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
CENTER AND THE EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKGROUP.
QUESTIONS? CONTACT ELIZABETH DI STASIO AT
ELIZABETH.SBSE@GMAIL.COM



EVERYTHING YOU NEED
TO KNOW ABOUT THE

PETERSBURG
book
FEST

Sept. 12, 2026

Virginia State University
Multipurpose Center
20809 2nd Avenue
Petersburg, VA 23803





FAQs

book

When is the Petersburg Book Fest?

Saturday, September 12, 2026

@ 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM EST

Where is the Petersburg Book Fest being held?

**Virginia State University
Multipurpose Center
20809 2nd Avenue
Petersburg, VA 23803**

Who is hosting the Petersburg Book Fest?

Resist Booksellers

an independent Black-owned bookstore that opened its doors in the heart of Petersburg, Virginia in 2022. Founded by a family of passionate bibliophiles and community advocates, Resist Booksellers sought to create a space where diverse voices could be celebrated and where books could serve as a tool for empowerment and social change.



PARENT & PROVIDER RESOURCE LINE

Big Feelings? Challenging Behavior? New Diagnosis? Not Sure What to Do Next?

You're not alone! With Just Ask, you can connect instantly with compassionate professionals in infant and early childhood development, who are ready to guide you in real time.

We Can Help With:

- Tantrums, biting, & big emotions
- Social-emotional development & co-regulation
- Developmental milestone questions
- Screening and evaluation guidance
- Child care and early intervention referrals
- Practical strategies you can use immediately

What Makes This Different?

- Staffed by professionals equipped with Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health knowledge
- Evidence-informed strategies tailored to your situation
- Support before concerns escalate into crisis
- Direct connections to trusted local resources & services.

Where We Serve

- Richmond City
- Henrico County
- Chesterfield County
- Petersburg City

Who We Serve

- Parents & caregivers
- Child care providers
- Preschool teachers
- Home visitors
- Early intervention professionals

Contact Us:

 justask@vcu.edu

 804-628-5124

 justask.partnership.vcu.edu

*A pilot initiative by the
**Partnership for People
with Disabilities** at Virginia
Commonwealth University
School of Education,
supported by Robins
Foundation.*





PARENT & PROVIDER RESOURCE LINE

¿Grandes emociones? ¿Conductas desafiantes? ¿Un nuevo diagnóstico? ¿No sabe qué hacer ahora?

¡No está solo! Con Just Ask, puede conectarse rápidamente con profesionales compasivos en desarrollo infantil, listos para orientarle en tiempo real.

Podemos ayudar con:

- Rabietas, mordidas y emociones intensas
- Desarrollo socioemocional y corrección
- Preguntas sobre hitos del desarrollo
- Orientación sobre evaluaciones y pruebas de detección
- Referencias para cuidado infantil e intervención temprana
- Estrategias prácticas para uso inmediato

¿Qué hace diferente a este programa?

- Profesionales en Salud Mental Infantil y de la Primera Infancia
- Estrategias evidentes y adaptadas
- Apoyo preventivo ante preocupaciones
- Conexiones con recursos y servicios locales confiables

Dónde ofrecemos servicios:

- Ciudad de Richmond
- Condado de Henrico
- Condado de Chesterfield
- Ciudad de Petersburg

A quién servimos:

- Padres y cuidadores
- Proveedores de cuidado infantil
- Maestros de preescolar
- Visitadores del hogar
- Profesionales de intervención temprana

Contáctenos:

- ✉ justask@vcu.edu
- ☎ 804-628-5124
- 🌐 justask-partnership.vcu.edu

Una iniciativa piloto de la Asociación para Personas con Discapacidades de la Universidad Virginia Commonwealth (VCU), Escuela de Educación, con el apoyo de la Fundación Rabins.



We Love Our Local Libraries!

Libraries offer a variety of resources and tools - usually for FREE!

Not a member of [Petersburg Public Library](#)? Sign up today!

Is your reader eager to get their hands on more books?

Visit your local library!

Sign up for a library card to keep the reading momentum!



Experiment with Reading Alongside Your Child This Month!

Your September 2026 Focus on The Basics Tip



Help with experiments.

Don't be afraid to experiment with different genres of books! One accessible way to do this is to venture to your local library and seek out all kinds of picture books. You can delve into a variety of board books, concept books, non-fiction picture books, and even early readers with a broader vocabulary and a longer story. Encourage this variety – you might be surprised at the kind of books your child gravitates toward.

Visit this principle from The Basics [here](#).

To learn more about how you can *Explore Through Movement and Play*, [click here](#).

Early childhood organizations all around Central Virginia have joined The Basics movement, a strategy for whole communities to support vibrant learning and brain development among infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Fun, simple, and powerful, starting at birth, The Basics are five science-based parenting and caregiving principles that support social, emotional, and cognitive development. Each month **Read to Them** will highlight tips and strategies that will assist you in creating a sturdy foundation for school readiness for our youngest citizens.

Visit TheBasicsVirginia.org for more information.

Celebrating 550 Sign-ups!

To check the availability of Imagination Library in your area, [click here](#).



**As Dolly says, “You can
never get enough
books into the hands of
enough children!”**



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